



SCOTT PETERS
CITY OF SAN DIEGO - COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

April 19, 2002

Mr. James Turner
Chairman, Board of Directors
San Diego County Water Authority
4677 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123-1233

Dear Mr. Turner and Members of the Board:

I'm writing to you on behalf of the residents of Rancho Peñasquitos who live near Ridgewood Park. The draft environmental impact report ("DEIR") for the Rancho Peñasquitos pressure control and hydroelectric facility identified alternative site number three, the Ridgewood Park site, as the "environmentally superior alternative" for the facility. I join my constituents, Councilmember Brian Maienschein, and over 200 residents in District 5 in urging you to select site number two, located adjacent to Interstate 15 and Mercy Road, as the preferred location for the facility.

Site number two is the preferred site for many reasons. The site is located adjacent to Interstate 15, Mercy Road, a fast-food restaurant and a gas station, rather than being located immediately adjacent to a residential community or community park. Construction noise and vibration could be dampened by the traffic noise on Interstate 15 and Mercy Road, and would not impact residential communities or a community park. Given its location adjacent to Interstate 15, construction truck access to and from the site would also be significantly easier than the other sites.

Implementation of the project at site two is consistent with the City of San Diego Progress Guide and the Mira Mesa Community Plan, and impacts to land use, aesthetics, cultural resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, biological resources, air quality, and transportation/traffic can be mitigated to below levels of significance.

Native habitat exists on all four sites. Potential impacts to sensitive wildlife species are the same in all cases, and could be fully mitigated. With regards to site two, the DEIR states that, "No direct mortality is expected [to the gnatcatcher] since construction would begin before the start of the breeding season and birds would acclimate or move into other areas away from the project site."

In addition, the "isolated drainage and detention basin" at site two was created by

previous construction activity. Construction debris still fills the site. The site lacks any hydric soils and wetland hydrology and therefore cannot be considered a wetland. Any potential impacts could be fully mitigated.

Furthermore, the site complies with engineering and cost restraints established by the County Water Authority ("CWA").

The Ridgewood residents have serious concerns regarding the construction of the facility at site number three. In particular, they're concerned about safety during construction, particularly during blasting activities, since several homes already sustained damage from a prior CWA project. The residents are also seriously concerned over noise and vibration impacts to adjacent homes which are currently located in a quiet, residential setting. The canyon setting will only exacerbate the noise. Visual impacts and potential impacts on the use and enjoyment of their local park during construction and maintenance activities are also real concerns.

As you know, the DEIR is only one part of the larger decision. I respectfully urge you to thoroughly consider all of the relevant issues equally, including the financial costs and engineering challenges, as well as community opposition, so that a balanced, smart and fair choice may be reached. My constituents and I respect the challenges the CWA must overcome when siting such a facility, and I want to assure you that we support the need for the facility. We just want to ensure that it is placed in the most appropriate location, and we believe the most appropriate location is site two.

Sincerely,

Scott H. Peters

SHP:gcb